

TOP SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

16 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/PP25X1A

SUBJECT: Comments on [REDACTED] Preamble (PSB D-24, 27 Oct. 1952)

1. A popular biography of Stalin, the autocrat of the USSR and the leader of the evil forces which threaten to engulf humanity in another dark age, should be published in Russian and most of the other languages of Europe and Asia. A simply but forcibly written biography, factually illustrated, should be universally obtainable, now and at the time of Stalin's death, at a very low price. Incidents in it should be based upon the tragic experiences suffered by every nationality in the Soviet orbit, and they should convey an appeal to the reason of all nations.

25X1A 2. As a result of decades of campaigning in the USSR, there apparently is a veneration for Stalin among wide segments of the population. This veneration, however, is not completely genuine in the Western sense. It springs from intensive propaganda rather than from reasoning, from fear rather than from true devotion. In [REDACTED] experience in Bulgaria, with high and low Soviet officers and civilian personnel, the name of or talk about Stalin was found to be taboo in 1946, at a time when Russian patriotism ran highest. It has remained taboo today. The rule "O Staline nel'zya" (there must be no talk about Stalin), is stated as a warning whenever it appears that someone intends to bring the name of Stalin into a conversation, and has become sensible conduct for self-preservation. While it resembles the Third Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain," it goes further; it makes the people abide by a self-imposed rule not to talk about Stalin in any way, good or bad. The saying, "O Staline nel'zya," incidentally, might be an appropriate title for a propaganda publication aimed at the Russians. The title, developed in the text, would imply that it is time for the people

to talk

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